

JUDICIAL BRANCH **STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

DEVELOPMENT

On June 1 and June 2, 2006 Chief Justice Broderick convened a group of 24 judges and support staff and charged them with developing a vision for the future of New Hampshire courts based on the following work already completed:

- **Challenge to Justice**: Findings and Recommendations of the NH Supreme Court Task-Force on Self-Represented Litigants (January 2004).
- **A Vision of Justice**: The Future of the New Hampshire Courts. A Report by the New Hampshire Supreme Court Committee on Justice System Needs and Priorities (September 2004)
- **NH Supreme Court Task Force on Public Access to Court Records** began work in June 2004 on an analysis of New Hampshire court records and our anticipated technical capacity to allow the public to access those records electronically. The report of the Task Force, submitted in February 2006, is currently before the New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules.
- In March 2005, the **NH Supreme Court Committee on Court Security** co-chaired by Justice Richard E. Galway and Earl Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner of Safety, held its first meeting and began its review of the status of security in New Hampshire courts. The Commission released its report in September 2005.
- In April 2005, Chief Justice Broderick established the 103-member **New Hampshire Citizens Commission on the State Courts** and charged the volunteer Commission with making an independent assessment of the delivery of justice to New Hampshire citizens. Almost two thirds of the commissioners were non-lawyers and non-judges. Some of the commissioners came to the process with no prior knowledge about, or experience with, New Hampshire courts; others came to the process having had some personal experience with the court system. The Commission submitted its report in June 2006.

FIVE GOALS THAT WILL DIRECT THE FUTURE

The **Judicial Branch Strategic Plan** has five goals that encompass more than 60 initiatives proposed by the above groups:

- Work to Serve and Educate the Public
- Achieve progress through change
- Keep our courthouses safe
- Recognize our staff as our most valuable resource
- Deliver results fairly and efficiently

BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2008 AND FY 2009

The Judicial Branch budget request for FY 2008 and FY 2009 is designed to be the first step in implementing the five goals in the New Hampshire Judicial Branch Strategic Plan.